

Extra walking of dairy cows to

access the pasture in a grazing system:

Effect on intake and digestibility



Grazing (GRA), the cows had access to the pasture immediately after a.m. milking until previous p.m. milking.



Walking (WALK), the cows walked 2.5 km before and after grazing at the pasture totalizing a walk of 5 km/d.



Fasting (FAS), the cows fasted in a paddock without food and water while WALK group walked, and afterwards accessed to the pasture.

Thirty Holstein x Jersey cows were assigned in a randomized complete block design to one of treatments. Pre-planned orthogonal contrasts were used to separate the means:
fasting effect: GRA vs. WALK+FAS, and walking effect: WALK vs. FAS.

Results

Item	Treatments			SEM	Orthogonal contrasts	
	GRA	WALK	FAS		GRA vs. WALK+FAS	WALK vs. FAS
<i>Total DMI, kg/d</i>	17.6	18.9	17.9	0.846	0.665	0.227
<i>Digestibility, %</i>						
DM	64.8	65.6	65.6	0.734	0.118	0.253
NDF	51.5	58.8	44.6	2.084	<0.001	0.015

The walking exercise or the short-time fasting period during walking did not affect the intake by dairy cows. However, the NDF digestibility decreased due the short fasting period.

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